REMARKS

Claims 6 and 11 have been amended. Claims 6 - 14 are currently pending in the present application.

In the Office Action, claims 6 - 14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the written description requirement. Additionally, in the Office Action, claims 11 - 13 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Barnish et al GB 957,944. Also, in the Office Action, claims 6 - 10 and 14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Barnish et al GB 957,944.

The Rejection of Claims 6 - 14 under 35 U.S.C. §112, First Paragraph, as Failing to Comply With the Written Description Requirement

Claims 6 - 14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the written description requirement and specifically for the reason that each of claims 6 and 11 allegedly recite limitations considered to be new matter. With respect to claim 6, claim 6 has now been amended to delete the objected-to recitation concerning a "mechanical agitation phase and to now recite the limitation of "a mechanics phase during which mechanics are introduced as a result of rotations of the wash liquid container." With respect to claim 11, claim 11 has now been amended to delete the objected-to recitation and to now recite the limitation of "performing a delay phase if the temperature of the water is below a pre-determined standard value, the delay phase continuing until the temperature of the water reaches the standard value and, during the delay phase, the wash liquid container is not subjected to a mechanics treatment during which mechanics are introduced as a result of rotations of the wash liquid container" and "performing a washing phase and continuing the wash phase for a pre-determined period of time, the washing phase including subjecting the wash liquid container to a mechanics treatment during which mechanics are introduced as a result of rotations of the wash liquid container." Each of the new limitations in claims 6 and 11

find support in the present application. See, for example, Page 5, lines 23 - 27 of the present application: "The heating device is then switched off again and the washing solution cools downs to a value below the target temperature, e.g. 50° C., by the end of the washing process W which is substantially characterised by the introduction of mechanics as a result of rotations of the drum at intervals." Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that the rejection of claims 6 - 14 under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph, be withdrawn.

The Present Invention

Claim 6 of the present invention as currently amended recites a method for washing laundry in a process-controlled household washing machine comprising a wash liquid container for receiving laundry and wash liquid intended for washing the laundry. More specifically, the method for washing laundry is for use in a process-controlled household washing machine wherein a heating device and a temperature sensor are attached, wherein water for washing is poured into the wash liquid container during a filling phase and the temperature sensor delivers signals for the respective temperature of the water or the wash liquid to a process control system during a washing phase and, as well, the process control system derives commands for controlling the heating device for heating the wash liquid from the temperature signals. The inventive method for washing laundry recited in claim 6 of the present invention is for use in a process-controlled household washing machine wherein a typical washing process runs at a temperature of the water or the wash liquid at the level of a standard value with a heating phase which begins with switching on the heating device, a mechanics phase during which mechanics are introduced as a result of rotations of the wash liquid container, and a post-wash phase without adding further heat energy, and lasts for a defined constant time from the beginning of switching on the heating device until the end of the post-wash phase. In accordance with the inventive method for washing laundry recited in claim 6 of the present invention, the temperature of the water or the wash liquid is determined at or after the end of the filling with water. In the event

of a determined temperature of less than a standard value for the amount of water which has freshly run into the wash liquid container before the beginning of the washing process, the heating device is switched on and, further, the beginning of the washing process is delayed by a defined time interval ($t_{OK} - t_{0S}$) but from there on lasts the same time as the typical washing process. As further recited in claim 6 of the present invention, during the time interval delay ($t_{OK} - t_{0S}$), the wash liquid container is not subjected to mechanics phase during which mechanics are introduced as a result of rotations of the wash liquid container.

The method of the present invention as exemplarily recited in claim 6 as currently amended provides the advantage that uniformly good washing results can be obtained since one can then always operate the washing phase for the same desired time duration of the so-called Sinnersch cycle (which prescribes a targeted sum for the factors of temperature, time, mechanics, and chemistry).

The Rejection of Claims 6 - 10 and 14 Under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as Being Unpatentable Over Barnish et al GB 957,944

With respect to the rejection of claims 6 - 10 and 14 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a), favorable reconsideration is respectfully requested in view of the amendment of claim 6 and the following comments.

Barnish et al GB 957,944 discloses its “low,” “medium,” and “high” temperature programs for a laundry washing process. Barnish et al GB 957,944 discloses that each of its “low,” “medium,” and “high” temperature programs has its own step of continuing the washing process after the water temperature has reached the respective “low,” “medium,” and “high” temperature that lasts a length of time that is different than the length of time for the other temperature programs. Specifically, the “low” temperature program of Barnish et al GB 957,944 has its own step of continuing the washing process after the water temperature has reached the “low” temperature that lasts a length of time of 14 minutes (see Page 2, line 84, of Barnish et al GB 957,944). In like manner, the “medium” temperature program of Barnish et al GB 957,944 has its own

step of continuing the washing process after the water temperature has reached the "medium" temperature that lasts a length of time of 16 minutes (see Page 3, line 4, of Barnish et al GB 957,944).

Applicants respectfully submit that Barnish et al GB 957,944 does not teach or disclose the laundry washing method of the present application as recited in claim 6 as currently amended. For example, Barnish et al GB 957,944 does not teach one of the steps of the laundry washing method of the present application - specifically, Barnish et al GB 957,944 does not teach a step of delaying the beginning of the washing process by a defined time interval if there has been a determination that the temperature of the amount of water which has freshly run into the wash liquid container is a temperature less than a standard value. Instead, Barnish et al GB 957,944 teaches that, no matter what the temperature of the amount of water which has freshly run into the wash liquid container, its washing process will begin and continue. See, for example, Page 2, line 109 - Page 3, line 7, of Barnish et al GB 957,944, wherein it is disclosed that, during the "medium" temperature programme No. 3, both the timer motor 29 and the basket drive motor 20 are running. The basket drive motor 20 drives the basket containing the laundry to be washed - i.e., the basket drive motor 20 of Barnish et al GB 957,944 rotates the basket that contains the clothes. This rotation of the basket amounts to a "mechanics phase" in the language of claim 6 of the present application as currently amended - namely, "a mechanics phase during which mechanics are introduced as a result of rotations of the wash liquid container." In direct contrast, the method of the present invention as recited in claim 6 of the present invention as currently amended specifies that, during the time interval delay ($t_{OK} - t_{0S}$), the wash liquid container (e.g., a basket containing clothes) is <u>not</u> subjected to mechanics phase during which mechanics are introduced as a result of rotations of the wash liquid container.

The Office Action states, on Page 9, "Regarding the limitation of agitation during the wash process but not during the delay interval, Barnish et al. clearly teaches the contacts of the timer open after 2 minutes to stop both motors whilst the water is being heated up to "medium" temperature, whereupon the thermostat closes." According to the Office Action, this teaching that the motors are stopped during heating and the

circuit is completed to the motors after the thermostat closes "meets the limitation of agitation during the wash cycle but not during the delay heating phase." However, Applicants draw attention to the fact that claim 6 of the present application as currently amended recites a "delayed start" operation before the beginning of the washing process during which the heating device is switched on and, during this "delayed start" operation, the wash liquid container is not subjected to mechanics phase during which mechanics are introduced as a result of rotations of the wash liquid container. Thus, a proper analysis of Barnish et al GB 957,944 should focus on any teaching or disclosure of such a "delayed start" operation wherein the washing container (e.g., the basket) has not yet undergone any rotation or a similar washing process movement and such a focus clearly reveals (and the Office Action admits) that the Barnish et al GB 957,944 process has already rotated the basket before the opening of the contacts of the timer open after 2 minutes to stop both motors. Accordingly, Barnish et al GB 957,944 does not meet the limitations of claim 6 of the present application as currently amended nor does Barnish et al GB 957,944 hint at the desirability of not rotating its basket before the opening of the contacts of the timer open after 2 minutes to stop both motors.

In each of its "low," "medium," and "high" temperature programs, Barnish et al GB 957,944 continues the washing process after the water temperature has reached the respective "low," "medium," and "high" temperature. Specifically, the "low" temperature program of Barnish et al GB 957,944 has its own step of continuing the washing process after the water temperature has reached the "low" temperature that lasts a length of time of 14 minutes (see Page 2, line 84, of Barnish et al GB 957,944). In like manner, the "medium" temperature program of Barnish et al GB 957,944 has its own step of continuing the washing process after the water temperature has reached the "medium" temperature that lasts a length of time of 16 minutes (see Page 3, line 4, of Barnish et al GB 957,944). In view of the fact that Barnish et al GB 957,944 thus varies the length of its washing phase according to the respective one of its "low," "medium," and "high" temperature programs, the Barnish et al GB 957,944 approach cannot offer the advantage provided by the method of the present invention - namely, the advantage that uniformly good washing results can be obtained since one can then always operate

the washing phase for the same desired time duration of the so-called Sinnersch cycle (which prescribes a targeted sum for the factors of temperature, time, mechanics, and chemistry).

Claim 10 of the present application recites that, in the inventive method set forth in claim 6 of the present application as currently amended, the time interval ($t_{OK} - t_{0S}$) has a pre-defined length. In contrast, the Barnish et al GB 957,944 approach discloses a predetermined period of 14 minutes during which water is introduced into the basket (a filling phase) and then this water is heated (a heating phase). In view of the fact that the heating phase commences at the end of the filling phase, it can be understood that the time interval of the heating phase does not have a pre-defined length for the reason that some filling phases may be relatively shorter if the water pressure is relatively strong while other filling phases may be relatively longer if the water pressure is relatively weak yet, collectively, the filling phase and the heating phase have a combined time interval of 14 minutes. Thus, for example, a filling phase of 8 minutes would be followed by a heating phase of 6 minutes (i.e., 8 minutes + 6 minutes = 14 minutes) while a filling phase of 10 minutes would be followed by a heating phase of 4 minutes (i.e., 10 minutes + 4 minutes = the same 14 minute time interval). Thus, Barnish et al GB 957,944 does not teach or disclose the feature recited in claim 10 of the present application that the time interval of the delay for adding additional heat ($t_{OK} - t_{0S}$) has a pre-defined length.

It is therefore respectfully requested that the prior art rejection of claim 6, and the rejection of claims 7 - 10 depending ultimately therefrom, be withdrawn.

The Rejection of Claims 11 - 13 Under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as Being Anticipated by Barnish et al GB 957,944

With respect to the rejection of claims 11 - 13 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b), favorable reconsideration is respectfully requested in view of the amendment of claim 11 and the following comments.

Barnish et al GB 957,944 discloses "low," "medium", and "high" temperature programs for a laundry washing process. Barnish et al GB 957,944 discloses that each of its "low," "medium," and "high" temperature programs has its own step of continuing the washing process after the water temperature has reached the respective "low," "medium," and "high" temperature that lasts a length of time that is different than the length of time for the other temperature programs.

Applicants respectfully submit that Barnish et al GB 957,944 does not teach or disclose the laundry washing method of the present application as recited in claim 11 as currently amended. Claim 11 as currently amended recites a method for washing laundry in a washing machine comprising a process control system for controlling operation of the washing machine, a wash liquid container for receiving laundry and water, a heating device for heating the water within the wash liquid container, and a temperature sensor for detecting the temperature of the water. As recited in claim 11 as currently amended, the method includes providing wash liquid to the wash liquid container during a filling phase of a given laundry handling cycle, detecting an initial temperature of the water with the temperature sensor and activating the heating device to heat the water during a heating phase. Additionally, the method includes performing a delay phase if the temperature of the water is below a pre-determined standard value, the delay phase continuing until the temperature of the water reaches the standard value and, during the delay phase, the wash liquid container is not subjected to a mechanics treatment during which mechanics are introduced as a result of rotations of the wash liquid container. However, as further recited in claim 11 as currently amended, the method further includes performing a washing phase and continuing the wash phase for a pre-determined period of time and, as recited in claim 11 as currently amended, the washing phase includes subjecting laundry in the wash liquid container to a mechanics treatment during which mechanics are introduced as a result of rotations of the wash liquid container, the mechanics treatment being the first mechanics treatment to which the laundry has been subjected during the respective given laundry handling cycle and the washing phase not commencing until the completion of the step of detecting an initial temperature of the water, the step of activating the heating device,

and the step of performing a delay phase, if such a delay phase is to be performed. Finally, the method includes turning off the heating device when the temperature of the water reaches a pre-determined washing temperature.

The Office Action refers to earlier Office Actions in which the rejection of claim 11 as anticipated by Barnish et al is detailed. According to these Office Actions, Barnish et al GB 957,944 allegedly teaches the recited method steps of claim 11 in view of, among other disclosures, a disclosure in Barnish et al GB 957,944 that its motors are stopped during heating. However, Applicants draw attention to the fact that claim 11 of the present application as currently amended recites that the washing phase does not commence until the completion of the step of detecting an initial temperature of the water, the step of activating the heating device, and the step of performing a delay phase, if such a delay phase is to be performed.

In light of this limitation in claim 11, it can clearly be seen that Barnish et al GB 957,944 fails to provide any teaching or disclosure of such a "delayed start" operation wherein the washing container (e.g., the basket) has not yet undergone any rotation or a similar mechanical agitation movement before the completion of estimating or sensing a temperature of the water that has been introduced into the washing container and then bringing the introduced water up to the selected temperature at which a washing phase with rotation of the washing container will be performed. Instead, in the Barnish et al GB 957,944 process, the basket has already been rotated before the Barnish et al GB 957,944 process brings the washing water up to the selected temperature (i.e, in the "medium" and "high" programs of the Barnish et al GB 957,944 process, the drum has already been rotated before the step of providing additional heating up of the washing water). Accordingly, Barnish et al GB 957,944 does not meet the limitations of claim 11 of the present application as currently amended nor does Barnish et al GB 957,944 hint at the desirability of <u>not</u> rotating its basket before the opening of the contacts of the timer open after 2 minutes to stop both motors.

It is therefore respectfully submitted that claim 11 patentably defines over Barnish et al GB 957,944. With regard to claims 12 - 14 depending ultimately from claim 11, it is respectfully submitted that these claims patentably define over Barnish et

al GB 957,944 for at least the same reasons as set forth with respect to the discussion of claim 11 hereinabove. Thus, it is respectfully solicited that the rejection of claims 11 - 14 be withdrawn.

CONCLUSION

In view of the above, entry of the present Amendment and allowance of claims 6 - 14 are respectfully requested. If the Examiner has any questions regarding this amendment, the Examiner is requested to contact the undersigned. If an extension of time for this paper is required, petition for extension is herewith made.

Respectfully submitted,

/James E. Howard/

James E. Howard
Registration No. 39,715
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BSH Home Appliances Corporation
100 Bosch Blvd.
New Bern, NC 28562
Phone: 252-639-7644
Fax: 714-845-2807
james.howard@bshg.com